

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Response is in response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2003. Claims 1, 9, 12-14, 26-28, 40, 44-47, 49-51, 53, 55-58, 65-67, 79-82, and 86-89 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 40, 53, 65, 79, 80, and 82 have been amended, and claims 12, 26-28, 45-46, 56-58, 81, and 87-88 have been canceled. Consequently, claims 1, 9, 13-14, 40, 44, 53, 55, 66-67, 86, and 89 remain pending.

Independent claims 1, 40, and 55 have been amended to recite that the communication means can send and receive data through "any one of a plurality of networks," rather than through a single network. Support for this amendment may be found in the Specification on page 14, lines 21-23, for example. Independent claims 1, 40, and 55 have been further amended to recite that the communication means can initiate a download of the data from the digital camera "in response to a user input," or "automatically... in response to determining that image storage capacity of the digital camera exceeds a predetermined amount." Support for this amendment may be found in the Specification on page 18, line 2+, for example. Independent claims 1, 40, and 55 have been further amended to recite that operations are performed on the data, "including any combination of, encrypting at least a portion of the data, creating authentication data, and regulating selected data for transmission to multiple destinations," which are limitations incorporated from cancelled dependent claims. The remaining amended claims were amended to correct claim dependencies. Accordingly, it is submitted that no new matter is presented.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 12-14, 40, 47, 55-58, 65-67 and 86-89 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kiyokawa (US 6,204,811). Claims 9-44 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kiyokawa in view of Moghadam et al. (US 5,917,542). Claims 26-28, 45-46, 50-51, 53 and 81-82 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kiyokawa in view of Rhoads et al. (US 5,768,426).

Applicant respectfully submits that the references fail to teach or suggest the amended independent claims of the present invention. The claims of the present invention are directed to a dedicated communication device that enables a digital camera to upload images to a network, such as the Internet, without the need for a PC.

In contrast, Kiyokawa is directed to an electronic image pickup system in which one electronic still camera, which is connected to or incorporates a modem, is remote controlled through another electronic still camera, which is also connected to or incorporates a modem. In operation, the master camera sends control data to the slave camera. The slave camera performs a photographing operation in accordance with the control data, and then transmits image data to the master camera

It is respectfully submitted that the references, alone or in combination fail to teach a communication device coupled to a camera that initiates a download of image data from the camera both “automatically” and “manually,” as recited in the claims of the present invention. The combination of references also fail to teach or suggest that the communication device can transmit data “through one or more types of communication networks to a destination device.” The combination of references further fail to teach or suggest that operations are performed on the data by the communication device, where the operation include “any combination of, encrypting at least a portion of the data, creating authentication data, and regulating selected data for transmission to multiple destinations,” as recited in independent claims 1, 40, and 55.

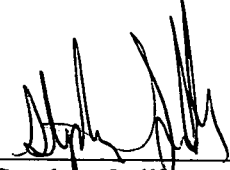
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1, 9, 13-14, 40, 44, 53, 55, 66-67, 86, and 89 are patentable over the cited reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

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Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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